
RUSSIA INSISTS ON KEY ROLE IN ARMENIAN-AZERI TRANSPORT LINKS

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Armenia and Azerbaijan could open their border to trade and travel only with Russias participation, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexei Overchuk said in televised remarks aired late on Tuesday.

Speaking to Russian state television at the end of a Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) summit in Moscow, Overchuk did not deny that Armenia is opposed to such participation. He implied that Yerevan froze more than a year ago the work of a Russian-Armenian-Azerbaijani working group dealing with the practical modalities of Armenian-Azerbaijani transport links.

The group was tasked with implementing Paragraph 9 of a Russian-brokered ceasefire agreement that stopped the 2020 war in Nagorno-Karabakh. The clause commits Yerevan to opening transport corridor that would connect Azerbaijan to its Nakhichevan exclave through Armenias Syunik province. It also stipulates that Russian border guards will control the movement of people, vehicles and goods there.

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